



Town of Rowe
Board of Selectmen Minutes
Tuesday, January 26, 2021 –4:00 p.m.
VIA TELECONFERENCE

This meeting will be held via video conference, consistent with Gov. Baker's temporary modifications to Open Meeting Law due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Board of Selectmen: Chair Charles Sokol, Selectman Joanne Semanie
Absent: Selectman Ed Silva
Administrative Staff: Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary, Paul McLatchy III Administrative Assistant
Staff: Board of Health Chair Maggie Rice
Audience:

Call to Order: Chair Sokol called the meeting to order at 4:13 P.M., a quorum of the board present via remote participation.

MOTION: Roll call vote to call to order:

Chair Sokol: **yes**
Silva: **absent**
Vice-Chair Semanie: **yes**

Background: This group of individuals (self-titled "Covid Group") has been meeting weekly for the past few months to listen to the state Covid-19 briefings and discuss ongoing matters in town related to the pandemic. As Board of Health (BOH) Clerk Joanne Semanie was elected last Saturday to the Board of Selectmen, there is now a quorum of the board present during these weekly meetings, and as such, must take place in open session.

Covid Discussion: The following points/topics were addressed during discussion:
Maggie Rice, Board of Health Chair reported the following:

- Reduction of vaccine in MA until mid-February
- Going into second phase for 75 plus age persons and comorbidities
- Pharmacies are notifying individuals and when vaccines will be ready
- Distribution for clinics will be evenly distributed
- They are working on mobile units for homebound.
- MEMA has food boxes for quarantined people and we need to speak with Fire Chief about it

The following message was prepared for the Public Notification System:

"Good Evening Rowe Residents,

The following is the weekly message regarding the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. Topics include updated information regarding vaccination rollout phases, and guidelines on how to stay safe between now and when a vaccine becomes available to you.

The State of Massachusetts has established a phased approach to allocate vaccination doses as they become available, which can be found to by following the link on the [Rowe town website](#), or by visiting [Mass.gov](#)

As of February 1st, people aged 75 or older will be eligible to sign up for vaccination. The Massachusetts website features an interactive map of vaccination locations throughout the state. Selecting a vaccination location will allow an eligible person to sign up to receive a vaccination at that facility.

However, it is important to remember that vaccination supplies are currently limited, and demand remains high: truthfully, demand will continue to increase as more and more people are made eligible for vaccination. When signing up for a vaccination online, be aware that the date available to you to actually receive a vaccination may not be as soon as you would hope, and if you choose to sign up via a phone call to a distribution facility, the wait time on the phone may also be very long — some people have reported hold times of several hours.

A link to the vaccination locations on the Massachusetts website is available via the [Rowe-ma.gov](#) website, or by [clicking here](#).

While we wait for vaccines to become more widely available, it is important to know that the number of infected individuals continues to grow in our region. Until this virus has been eradicated, we must all remain patient, and continue to reduce exposure to others: that means wearing masks that cover both our mouths and noses whenever in public, maintaining distance when around others, minimizing time in indoor public spaces, and whenever possible limiting travel. While we wait for our turn to receive a vaccine, all of these measures are more important than ever to keep ourselves and each other safe.

The Rowe Coronavirus task force will continue to keep you updated on these and other coronavirus topics on an on-going basis, typically with weekly updates or when prudent.

Thank you, and stay healthy.

~Chuck Sokol~

Contracts/Warrants:

1. Executive Office of Elder Affairs – COA Contract FY21:

MOTION TO SIGN: Following review, Chair Sokol made a motion to sign the Standard Contract Form with the Executive Office of Elder Affairs for the on behalf of the Council on Aging for FY21 for the amount of \$6,000.00. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie.

MOTION: Roll call vote to Motion:

Chair Sokol: yes Vice-Chair Semanie: yes (Vote: 2-0-0)

2. Gill Engineering – Fee Proposal for Professional Engineering Services Ford Hill Rd. Culvert Replacement Design:

MOTION TO SIGN: Following review, Chair Sokol made a motion to sign the Fee Proposal for Professional Engineering Services with Gill Engineering for the Ford Hill Road over Shippee Brook Culvert for the amount of \$ 16,660.00. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie.

MOTION: Roll call vote to Motion:

Chair Sokol: yes Vice-Chair Semanie: yes (Vote: 2-0-0)

3. Amendment to Agreement for Services By and Between FRCOG and Rowe for CPHS CARES ACT Public Health Covid Response:

MOTION TO SIGN: Following review, Chair Sokol made a motion to sign the Amendment to the Agreement for Services by and Between the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) and the Town of Rowe to amend the terms of the Agreement extending the Agreement effective July 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021 paid by the CARES Act Funding from the State of Massachusetts.

MOTION: Roll call vote to Motion:

Chair Sokol: yes Vice-Chair Semanie: yes (Vote: 2-0-0)

Adjournment:

MOTION: Seeing no further business, Chair Sokol made a motion to adjourn the meeting 5:21 p.m. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie.

MOTION: Roll call vote to Motion:


Chair Sokol: yes Vice-Chair Semanie: yes (Vote: 2-0-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary

Approval Date: FEBRUARY 4, 2021

Approved:



Chuck Sokol, Chair



Selectman Joanne Semanie

Documents:

- Agenda January 26, 2021
- Executive Office of Elder Affairs – COA Contract FY21
- Gill Engineering – Fee Proposal for Professional Engineering Services Ford Hill Rd. Culvert Replacement Design
- Amendment to Agreement for Services By and Between FRCOG and Rowe for CPHS CARES ACT Public Health Covid Response